

APPROVED: Meeting No. 26-93

ATTEST:

Paula Jewell

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 21-93

May 25, 1993

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on May 25, 1993, at 7:41 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas M. Duncan

Councilmember James F. Coyle

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

ABSENT

Councilmember Dave Robbins (On travel)

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Paula Jewell.

Re: Review of FY94 Recommended
Capital Improvements Program

Assistant City Manager Rick Kuckkahn presented the highlights of the CIP Budget proposed for FY94. Mr. Kuckkahn reported that staff was not recommending any changes based on the comments heard at the public hearings held on the proposed FY94 budget. He said that one criterion of this year's program was to avoid bonding in order to minimize borrowing. Mr. Kuckkahn noted some major completed projects: swimming pool, golf club house, Wootton Parkway, Mansion rehabilitation, water plant, City Hall remodeling, Senior Center remodeling, street system, sidewalks, and the stormwater system.

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Councilmember Krasnow asked that staff take a second look at lighting for Monument Park since it was not being funded until FY95 anyway. Ms. Krasnow expressed concern about the tunnel becoming a place for hanging out at night and commented that people rarely used the tunnel in the day time let alone at night.

Mayor Duncan questioned the relocation of the dead end of Seven Locks Road and asked whether the County was going to assist with financing and maintenance. Staff will take a look at this.

Question was raised whether the \$720,000 being requested for the concrete maintenance program was realistic in FY95 when the outlay had been \$300,000. Staff will look into this and get a memo to the Mayor and Council by 6/2/93.

Staff will provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council on the landscape and lighting for Lincoln Park improvements and whether to use the money for the improvements or transfer the funds to other programs.

Re: Public Hearing Issues - Summer
Youth Employment Program.

Staff analyzed the Housing Authority's recommended proposal for alternative summer youth employment program. However, staff felt that although they can support Ms. Crewe's proposal, the use of Community Services, Recreation and other City staff could support and help develop the program. Decision was made to eliminate the Summer Youth Employment Program and look into other alternatives that would help youths find summer employment.

Councilmember Krasnow and Councilmember Coyle expressed concern regarding the hiring of non-City residents. Staff is enhancing the recruitment process to ensure that qualified youths are hired. Staff to give Mayor and Council a follow up report on how Sandra Crewe responds to this concept since she mentioned there were 50 kids in need of jobs.

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Councilmember Marrinan commented that it needed to be made clear that this would be a citywide program and not be limited to the Lincoln Park community youth.

Re: Outside Agency Issues

Mr. Romer said he approached these issues with the same overall goals as other departments--no new programs or positions, and look at downsizing and rightsizing.

o Child Care Connection - Mr. Romer recommended no funding. Councilmember Krasnow expressed concern that Rockville has made no commitment to child care and she asked if the City could make a token contribution. Mayor and Council consented to funding \$1,000.

o Home Health Care for the Elderly - Mr. Romer recommended \$15,000. Requests were made at the public hearing to restore funding to \$30,000. He noted a possible source of funding could come from RSI who strongly supported the program.

Councilmember Marrinan noted that the City saved \$3,000 from fireworks which could be added to put funding back at \$33,000 which was requested by Home Health Care for the Elderly. Consensus by Mayor and Council to add the \$3,000 for a total of \$18,000 in addition to the City Manager's recommendation, bringing the total amount approved to \$33,000.

o Rockville Arts Place - Mr. Romer recommended \$50,000 (down from \$67,500). Councilmember Coyle said the City should inform RAP of the Mayor and Council's plans to negotiate adoption of a 5-year phase out of funding. The Council discussed ideas on how to phase out funding over the next 5 years.

Councilmember Krasnow expressed some concern about phasing this program out definitively and said that RAP had been expanding and was a benefit to the City. She suggested a 3-year level funding plan.

Councilmember Marrinan reminded the Mayor and Council that RAP was getting a significant subsidy through the use of a rent free building for 20 years. Mayor and Council reached consensus on a 5-year phase out of funding: \$50,000 (first year); \$50,000 (second year); \$50,000 (third year); \$40,000 (fourth year); and \$30,000 with a reevaluation of the program to take place during the fifth year.

- o Stepping Stones Shelter - Mr. Romer recommended \$0 funding (currently at \$10,000; the Shelter requested \$15,000). Mr. Romer noted that the Caregivers provide some of the same services as Stepping Stones and there was also a tendency for the Shelter to get other funding resources. Mr. Romer also noted that staff had some knowledge that there were internal problems between the Shelter's clients and administrators. Mayor and Council consensus to support the City Administrator's recommendation for no funding.

- o Manna Food Center - Staff recommending \$0 funding. The Center asked for \$5,000; Mayor and Council consensus to give \$5,000.

- o Chase Shelter - Requested funding for air conditioning and other needs. Consensus to grant request.

- o Other Outside Agency Requests - Mayor and Council consensus to support the City Administrator's recommendation of \$2,500 for the Interfaith Clothing Shelter and \$35,000 for Rockville Emergency Assistance Program.

- o Cultural Arts Commission - Regarding the CAC's request for \$3,500 for concerts in the red brick courthouse, staff noted that there was a good possibility of obtaining grant from Maryland State Arts Program for this.

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Re: Wish List and Final Issues

o National Chamber Orchestra - \$15,000 subsidy for 1993-94 season. NCO had requested that the City enter into an arena of an annual operating subsidy. Mayor Duncan said he would like to hear the CAC's thoughts on this type of support for the performing arts.

Councilmember Coyle said he would like staff to explore discussions with Montgomery County Councilmember Bill Hanna regarding the County joining in with the City to help the group survive by providing matching funds. Mayor and Council reached consensus to forgive the NCO the \$10,000 and give them \$5,000.

Councilmember Marrinan suggested that the City should consider the idea of providing some type of per capita for the performing arts.

o Beall Avenue Apartments Sprinkler - \$30,000 for fire sprinkler retrofit. Staff noted that this was a high priority project for CDBG funding however it was not funded. Staff commented that there was approximately \$40,000 that could be taken from rehab program; Mayor and Council consented to using these funds

o West Montgomery Avenue Banners - Mr. Romer said staff was taking a broad interdepartmental approach to the plans for closure of West Montgomery Avenue and was working on these issues so that the road would result in the gateway that the Mayor and Council envisioned. Staff was monitoring the sidewalk replacement project and looking at banners and holiday decorations. Recreation and Parks Director Burt Hall reported on the costs of the banner brackets and said that PEPCO would probably give their permission for placing the banners; however the Historic District Commission needed to look at the project. Mr. Hall said the snowflake decorations would fit in better since the banners were not visible when the trees were in full

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bloom. Mayor Duncan said he would like to see this at least reviewed and asked that Staff make a recommendation for next year.

- o Management Intern Program - Recommendation to do away with the program in FY94. Councilmember Marrinan asked if staff had looked at other funding sources for the program. Councilmember Krasnow said that cuts should be made with the understanding that if things improved, the program could be reinstituted after the Mayor and Council revisited the issue.

- o Employee Special Events - Recommendation for no picnic and one awards ceremony with heavy hors d'oeuvres. Councilmember Krasnow asked if the summer barbecue at the Swim Center for employees could serve as the awards function and the social event. She commented that the social event was important for employee morale. Mayor Duncan added to Ms. Krasnow's suggestion that the holiday event could be paid for by employees.

Councilmember Marrinan suggested a social event (i.e., picnic) and an awards event. Staff was asked to find ways to reduce costs. An idea was discussed for having the awards ceremony at a Mayor and Council meeting with a reception held just prior to that meeting and plan for a holiday party that staff would pay for.

Councilmember Coyle said he would like Mayor and Council to subsidize the holiday party. Suggestion was also made that employees could be charged a small fee for the picnic.

Staff was asked to report back with some ideas and investigate the idea of employees contributing to the costs for social events.

- o Tax and Utility Rates - Awaiting further instructions from staff regarding solid waste disposal. Discussion was held on whether the tax rate should be cut to an amount which equals

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.25 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. Mayor Duncan said he would raise the issue of lowering taxes again before the FY94 budget was adopted.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m. to reconvene in a Special Session on Wednesday, May 26, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. to meet with members of the Rockville Chamber of Commerce, Planning Board and other interested individuals who had requested to meet with the Mayor and Council regarding the proposed RCI Agreement.